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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—AUGUST 2001

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale was unchanged over the past two months, not seasonally adjusted, at a level of 173.5 (1982-84=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that for the 12-month period ended in August, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 3.0 percent.

Over the two months, lower costs for transportation offset higher costs in the other indexes. After rising in each of the two-month pricing periods over the first six months of 2001, this was the first time in this calendar year that the index had not recorded an increase. Over the first eight months of 2001, the index has risen 2.4 percent compared to a 2.2 percent rise in the all items index for the comparable period last year.

Among the special indexes compiled, energy costs declined for the first time after recording six consecutive months of increases, dropping 7.1 percent over two months. Food costs, which had risen 0.8 percent in the March-April pricing period, then declined 0.3 percent in the May-June period, rose 0.6 percent in the June-August pricing period. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale has risen 0.6 percent since June 2001.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since August 2000	Over 2 months since June 2001
All items	3.0	0.0
Food and beverages	3.7	0.6
Housing	3.7	0.4
Apparel	-2.2	1.4
Transportation	-0.6	-2.9
Medical care	3.4	0.4
Recreation 1/	5.4	0.3
Education and communication 1/	4.8	2.4
Other goods and services	8.9	0.9

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major groups, the food and beverages index rose 0.6 percent in the most recent pricing period, after declining 0.2 percent in the previous period. Both food at home (up 0.7 percent) and food away from home (up 0.4 percent) rose over the period, as did costs for alcoholic beverages (up 0.7 percent). Since August 2000, costs for food and beverages have advanced 3.7 percent, mainly due to higher costs for food at home (up 4.6 percent) over the past 12 months.

Housing costs continued to climb in 2001, although at a slightly faster pace, increasing 0.4 percent, as compared to the 0.2 percent rise recorded in the May-June pricing period. The increase reflected a 0.5 percent rise in the cost of shelter and came despite a 0.2 percent drop in fuel and utilities costs. The fuel and utilities index registered a decline due to lower costs for utility natural gas service, down 7.5 percent over two months, while electricity costs were unchanged. Over the past 12 months, housing costs have increased 3.7 percent as costs for shelter rose 2.9 percent and fuel and utilities costs advanced 13.1 percent.

The apparel index, which had declined 2.4 percent in the May-June pricing period, reversed its direction and rose 1.4 percent. The index, which is subject to volatility, has declined 2.2 percent since August 2000.

Transportation costs dropped 2.9 percent over the past two months, reflecting lower gasoline costs. The gasoline index, which rose 6.8 percent in the May-June period, declined 13.1 percent over the two months ending in August. Since August 2000, the transportation index has dropped 0.6 percent, reflecting a 7.3 percent drop in the cost of gasoline.

The medical care index continued its advance, but a slower pace, increasing 0.4 percent in July-August after rising 0.8 percent in May and June. Since August 2000, the medical care index has increased 3.4 percent. Other indexes reported include the recreation index, which rose 0.3 percent in the current pricing period after recording a 1.7 percent increase in June. Several months of large increases since February are reflected in the index's 5.4 percent advance since August 2000. Costs for education and communication, which were unchanged in the May-June period, rose 2.4 percent in the most recent two-month pricing period. Since August 2000, the index has advanced 4.8 percent. Costs for other goods and services accelerated their advance, rising 0.9 percent compared to a 0.2 percent rise in the May-June period. With the most recent increase, the index has risen 8.9 percent since August 2000.

Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta

Consumer price indexes are published monthly for the South and bi-monthly for the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas. For the two months ending in August, consumer prices in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area were unchanged compared to decreases for the South and the Atlanta area. Since June, prices in the South, as measured by the CPI-U, declined 0.4 percent, while prices in the Atlanta area dropped 0.5 percent. Over the past year, consumer prices in Miami-Fort Lauderdale have climbed faster than the South and the Atlanta area. Since August 2000, the CPI-U for the South has advanced 2.1 percent, while the all items index for Atlanta rose 2.8 percent.

Technical Notes

For the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area, data are collected bi-monthly, with selected items collected monthly. The publication cycle for the index has been changed to publish data for even months, beginning with release of the February 1998 data. In each revision, the CPI geographic sample is selected to be representative of the current demographics of the United States. The 1998 revision utilizes the 1990 Census of population. The CPI developed an updated area sample design, decided on

new local area indexes and changed the frequency of publication for local area indexes in order to better reflect these new demographics.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4news.htm>. Our CPI homepage (<http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>) has articles on the 1998 CPI Revision from the December 1996 *Monthly Labor Review*. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. Table 1 for the CPI-U, South may be found under Code 9110. Data in this table are updated monthly and are available on the day of release. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305.

Revisions to the Consumer Price Indexes

Users should be aware that CPI data were revised to correct an error in the residential rent and owners' equivalent rent components. Indexes were revised for both the CPI-U and CPI-W for the period January 2000 through August 2000. For more information, contact the Atlanta information office.

Change in the Consumer Price Index Formula

On April 16, 1998, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its decision to use a new formula for calculating the basic components of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This change became effective with data for January 1999.

The new formula, the geometric mean estimator, is used in index categories that comprise approximately 61 percent of total consumer spending represented by the CPI-U. The remaining index categories will continue to be calculated as they have been. Based upon BLS research, it is expected that new formula will reduce the annual rate of increase in the CPI by approximately 0.2 percentage point per year.

The geometric mean estimator was introduced in both the CPI-U and the CPI-W effective with data for January 1999, in accord with the past practice of introducing methodological changes at the beginning of a calendar year. BLS continued to publish "overlap" CPI-U and CPI-W series using the current calculation method for the first six months of 1999. These indexes will not be published regularly for months subsequent to June 1999, but will be available upon request. Additional information on this change was published in the April 1998 CPI Detailed Report and is available on the Internet (<http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>).

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida (1982-84=100) (Not seasonally adjusted)

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index Aug 2001	Percent change to Aug 2001 from		Index Aug 2001	Percent change to Aug 2001 from	
		Aug 2000	June 2001		Aug 2000	June 2001
All items	173.5	3.0	0.0	170.9	3.1	-0.2
All Items (Nov. 1977=100)	279.6	-	-	277.7	-	-
Food and beverages	181.7	3.7	0.6	180.3	3.7	0.6
Food	181.8	3.5	0.6	181.1	3.6	0.6
Food at home	179.3	4.6	0.7	177.1	4.8	0.7
Food away from home	187.3	1.9	0.4	189.8	1.9	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	181.9	6.4	0.7	168.6	6.5	0.7
Housing	165.0	3.7	0.4	163.6	3.9	0.4
Shelter	173.5	2.9	0.5	173.3	3.0	0.6
Rent of primary residence	161.4	3.5	0.9	161.4	3.5	0.9
Owners' equivalent rent 1/	175.3	2.8	0.5	168.5	2.8	0.5
Fuel and utilities	133.7	13.1	-0.2	133.8	12.9	-0.3
Fuels	126.2	16.6	-0.3	126.5	16.5	-0.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	124.9	16.6	-0.2	124.9	16.5	-0.3
Electricity	122.6	17.3	0.0	122.6	17.3	0.0
Utility natural gas service	180.4	0.2	-7.5	180.4	0.2	-7.5
Household furnishings and operation	166.1	1.2	0.4	162.5	0.3	0.0
Apparel	149.8	-2.2	1.4	161.1	0.8	2.3
Transportation	158.5	-0.6	-2.9	155.9	-0.6	-3.2
Private transportation	157.3	-0.8	-3.3	155.0	-0.7	-3.5
Motor fuel	130.9	-7.2	-12.8	130.9	-7.2	-12.8
Gasoline (all types)	130.0	-7.3	-13.1	130.0	-7.3	-13.1
Regular unleaded 2/	127.3	-9.1	-14.3	127.3	-9.1	-14.3
Midgrade unleaded 2/ 3/	122.3	-7.4	-12.6	122.3	-7.4	-12.6
Premium unleaded 2/	130.0	-5.9	-12.3	130.0	-5.9	-12.3
Medical care	252.4	3.4	0.4	250.1	3.3	0.4
Recreation 4/	104.7	5.4	0.3	103.5	5.4	0.3
Education and communication 4/	107.4	4.8	2.4	107.8	5.2	2.0
Other goods and services	231.4	8.9	0.9	224.1	8.5	0.3
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	162.3	0.7	-1.2	161.8	0.9	-1.2
Commodities less food and beverages	149.1	-1.3	-2.4	150.3	-1.0	-2.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	147.5	-1.3	-3.7	150.1	-0.7	-3.8
Durables	152.2	-1.3	-0.6	149.7	-1.4	-0.7
Services	183.4	4.7	0.8	180.9	4.9	0.7
All items less medical care	169.1	3.0	-0.1	167.1	3.1	-0.2
All items less shelter	173.5	3.1	-0.2	170.3	3.1	-0.5
Commodities less food	150.7	-1.0	-2.3	150.9	-0.7	-2.4
Nondurables	166.0	1.4	-1.3	166.4	1.7	-1.4
Nondurables less food	150.2	-0.9	-3.4	151.0	-0.2	-3.5
Energy	126.6	3.2	-7.1	124.8	2.2	-7.6
All items less energy	178.6	3.0	0.6	176.9	3.2	0.6
All items less food and energy	177.8	2.9	0.6	176.1	3.1	0.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:						
1982-84=\$1.00	\$.576	-	-	\$.585	-	-
November 1977=\$1.00	\$.358	-	-	\$.360	-	-

1/ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

3/ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

2/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4/ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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